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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Layer and Egg Production and Cold Storage Holdings	1
Chick Hatch and Eggs in Incubators	2
Turkey Poults Hatched and Placed	3
Egg and Poultry Production and Value	3-4
Poultry and Egg Prices	4

U.S. APRIL EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.34 billion during April 1997, up 1 percent from the 6.24 billion produced in 1996. Production included 5.34 billion table eggs and 998 million hatching eggs, of which 939 million were broiler-type and 59.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 1997 averaged 303 million, up 2 percent from the average number of layers during April 1996. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,093 eggs, compared with 2,105 in April 1996.

CALIFORNIA EGG PRODUCTION

California's egg production during April totaled 535 million, 31.0 million less than last month, but 7.00 million more than last April. Average number of layers during the month was 25.5 million, 4 percent above April 1996. Eggs per 100 layers during the month were 2,100, compared to 2,222 last month and 2,146 in April 1996.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 1997 totaled 302 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 302 million layers consisted of 247 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 53.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 2.69 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 1997 averaged 69.1 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from the 69.4 eggs a year ago.

LAYER NUMBERS AND EGG PRODUCTION DURING APRIL, FORCED MOLTING AS OF MAY 1

State	Average Number of Layers on Hand		Eggs Per 100 Layers		Total Egg Production		Layers Being Molted		Layers With Molt Completed	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	-- Thousands --		-- Number --		-- Millions --		-- Percent --			
Alabama	10,826	10,847	1,921	1,936	208	210	1.5	4.0	7.5	11.0
Arkansas	15,497	14,710	1,839	1,829	285	269	3.5	5.0	8.5	9.0
California	24,600	25,474	2,146	2,100	528	535	11.0	10.0	41.0	35.5
Georgia	18,709	19,945	2,036	1,980	381	395	7.5	5.0	21.5	20.5
Indiana	21,378	20,948	2,138	2,172	457	455	4.0	4.0	26.5	16.5
Iowa	18,542	21,166	2,184	2,154	405	456	5.5	3.5	29.5	26.5
North Carolina	13,506	12,751	1,873	1,890	253	241	2.0	3.5	13.0	8.0
Ohio	23,644	26,053	2,233	2,215	528	577	3.5	3.0	10.5	12.0
Pennsylvania	20,983	21,135	2,221	2,271	466	480	6.5	4.0	19.5	16.0
Texas	16,172	16,651	2,053	2,036	332	339	4.5	7.5	20.5	22.0
U.S. TOTAL	296,605	302,689	2,105	2,093	6,243	6,336	5.4	5.3	22.2	19.8

PACIFIC COAST AND UNITED STATES COLD STORAGE

Commodity	Unit	April 1996	March 1997 <u>a/</u>	April 1997	Apr. 1997 Apr. 1996	Apr. 1997 Mar. 1997
PACIFIC COAST		---- Thousands ----			-- Percent --	
Turkeys	Lbs.	56,530	60,731	64,810	115	107
Chickens	Lbs.	43,948	46,503	50,270	114	108
Ducks	Lbs.	351	333	408	116	123
Total Frozen Poultry	Lbs.	100,829	107,567	115,488	115	107
Eggs, Frozen	Lbs.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eggs, Shell	Cases	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
UNITED STATES						
Turkeys	Lbs.	514,538	496,482	548,333	107	110
Chickens	Lbs.	706,181	715,085	743,546	105	104
Ducks	Lbs.	1,697	1,751	2,581	152	147
Total Frozen Poultry	Lbs.	1,222,416	1,213,318	1,294,460	106	107
Eggs, Frozen	Lbs.	11,527	8,546	8,492	74	99
Eggs Shell	Cases	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

a/ Revised.

U.S. BROILER HATCH UP 3 PERCENT

The April 1997 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 691 million, was up 3 percent from April of the previous year. There were 592 million eggs in incubators on May 1, 1997, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.12 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 1997. This was down 9 percent from April 1996.

BROILER-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, APRIL

State	1996	1997	1997/1996
	- Thousands -		Percent
Alabama	86,000	90,180	105
Arkansas	101,413	105,295	104
Delaware	15,313	16,268	106
Florida	9,875	8,947	91
Georgia	100,159	103,199	103
Maryland	30,698	30,768	100
Mississippi	56,207	62,728	112
North Carolina	62,702	60,912	97
Pennsylvania	11,291	12,758	113
South Carolina	14,854	14,867	100
Texas	40,128	43,392	108
Virginia	23,001	23,831	104
California, Tennessee & West Virginia	34,003	34,365	101
Washington & Oregon	6,130	6,013	98
Other States ^{1/}	76,604	77,267	101
United States	668,378	690,790	103

^{1/} Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

U.S. EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED UP 9 PERCENT

Egg-type chicks hatched during April totaled 38.7 million, up 9 percent from April 1996. Eggs in incubators totaled 36.4 million on May 1, 1997, up 8 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 316 thousand during April 1997. This was up 25 percent from the 252 thousand of April 1996.

EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, APRIL

State	1996	1997	1997/1996
	- Thousands -		Percent
Arkansas	743	912	123
Florida	1,202	1,391	116
Georgia	2,040	2,249	110
Indiana	7,768	7,896	102
Iowa	3,232	4,100	127
Kansas	146	348	238
Minnesota	2,196	1,840	84
Missouri	414	415	100
Pennsylvania	3,798	4,979	131
Other States ^{1/}	14,089	14,616	104
United States	35,628	38,746	109

^{1/} Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

EGGS IN INCUBATORS, MAY 1

Geographic Division	Broiler-Type			Egg-Type		
	1996	1997	1997/1996	1996	1997	1997/1996
	- - Thousands - -		Percent	- - Thousands - -		Percent
N Atlantic	11,886	12,464	105	4,634	6,186	133
E N Central	8,634	8,187	95	9,513	9,903	104
W N Central	22,798	22,793	100	6,348	6,613	104
S Atlantic	222,994	229,324	103	4,855	4,866	100
S Central	280,739	295,627	105	3,315	4,026	121
West	23,609	23,425	99	5,041	4,832	96
United States	570,660	591,820	104	33,706	36,426	108

U.S. TURKEY HATCHERY PRODUCTION

Turkey eggs in incubators on May 1, 1997 in the United States totaled 36.2 million, down 5 percent from May 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were down 3 percent from the revised April 1 total of 37.2 million. Regional percent changes from the previous year were as follows: E N Central, up 2; W N Central, unchanged; N & S Atlantic, down 11; S Central, down 2; West, down 8. The 28.2 million poult

placed during April 1997 in the United States were down 5 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago. Placements were up 2 percent from the March 1997 total of 27.6 million. Regional percent changes from the previous year were as follows: E N Central, down 1; W N Central, down 5; N & S Atlantic, down 8; S Central, up 3; West, down 10.

ALL TURKEYS

Geographic Division	Eggs in Incubators May 1		1997 1996	Poult Placed during April 1/		1997 1996
	1996	1997		1996	1997	
	Thousands		Pct.	Thousands		Pct.
E N Central	5,235	5,319	102	3,869	3,822	99
W N Central	11,015	11,040	100	8,800	8,352	95
N & S Atlantic	13,332	11,898	89	10,506	9,691	92
S Central	4,208	4,130	98	3,228	3,324	103
West	4,125	3,799	92	3,322	2,991	90
U.S.	37,915	36,186	95	29,725	28,180	95

^{1/} Excludes exported poult.

TURKEY POULT PLACEMENTS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES ^{1/}

Month	Total All Breeds		96-97 95-96	Cumulative Total		96-97 95-96
	1995-96	1996-97		1995-96	1996-97	
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands		Percent
Sept.	23,371	24,154	103	23,371	24,154	103
Oct.	25,158	25,354	101	48,529	49,508	102
Nov.	24,619	23,830	97	73,148	73,338	100
Dec.	25,269	27,119	107	98,417	100,457	102
Jan.	27,391	27,130	99	125,808	127,587	101
Feb.	27,596	27,152	98	153,404	154,739	101
Mar.	27,932	27,607	99	181,336	182,346	101
Apr.	29,725	28,180	95	211,061	210,526	100
May	29,668			240,729		
June	27,987			268,716		
July	28,913			297,629		
Aug.	27,496			325,125		

^{1/} Excludes exported poult.

EGG PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Egg producers in California produced 6.57 billion eggs in 1996, 2 percent above the 6.44 billion produced in 1995. The value of eggs produced totaled \$367 million, up 27 percent from the previous year's production of \$288 million.

Nationally, the value of egg production in 1996 was \$4.76 billion, up 23 percent from the \$3.88 billion in 1995. Egg production totaled 76.1 billion eggs, up 2 percent from the 74.6 billion eggs produced in 1995. In 1996, eggs averaged 75.0 cents per dozen, compared with 62.4 cents in 1995.

EGG PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Year	Eggs Produced	Price Per Dozen	Value of Production
CALIFORNIA	Millions	Cents	Thousand Dollars
1987	8,023	46.0	307,548
1988	7,917	46.2	304,805
1989	7,579	65.9	416,213
1990	7,711	63.3	406,755
1991	7,721	58.4	375,755
1992	7,224	47.6	286,552
1993	7,029	49.1	287,603
1994	6,602	46.4	255,277
1995	6,444	53.7	288,369
1996	6,569	67.1	367,317
UNITED STATES			
1995	74,591	62.4	3,879,609
1996	76,148	75.0	4,756,582

BROILER PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Broiler production in California for 1996 was 234 million birds, 1 percent less than the 236 million produced a year ago. Value of production, at \$457 million, was 19 percent above the previous year. The average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 39.0 cents for 1996, compared to 32.5 cents per pound for the previous year.

Nationally, the value of broilers produced during 1996 was \$13.9 billion, up 18 percent from the \$11.8 billion in 1995. The total number of broilers produced in 1996 was 7.60 billion, up 4 percent from 1995. The 1996 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 38.1 cents per pound, compared to 34.4 cents per pound in 1995.

BROILER PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Year	Number Produced	Pounds Produced	Price Per Pound 1/	Value of Production 2/
CALIFORNIA	Thousand Head	Thousand Pounds	Cents	Thousand Dollars
1987	196,120	921,764	37.0	341,053
1988	212,199	997,335	34.0	339,094
1989	223,130	1,048,711	34.5	361,805
1990	231,100	1,109,280	30.5	338,330
1991	240,200	1,152,960	29.0	334,358
1992	233,000	1,188,300	29.5	350,549
1993	216,000	1,101,600	32.0	352,512
1994	226,200	1,131,000	33.0	373,230
1995	235,800	1,179,000	32.5	383,175
1996	234,200	1,171,000	39.0	456,690
UNITED STATES				
1995	7,325,670	34,222,000	34.4	11,762,222
1996	7,598,200	36,486,050	38.1	13,906,019

1/ Live weight equivalent price. 2/ Gross income including home consumption.

TURKEY PRODUCTION AND VALUE

California turkey production totaled 493 million pounds (live weight) in 1996, 7 percent more than the 462 million pounds raised in 1995. Value of production, at \$222 million, was 4 percent above the \$213 million realized in 1995. The annual average of 45 cents per pound was one cent below the 1995 average of 46 cents per pound.

Nationally, the value of turkeys produced during 1996 was \$3.10 billion, up 12 percent from the \$2.78 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 1996 totaled 7.17 billion pounds live weight, compared with 6.78 billion pounds in 1995. The average price received by producers during 1996 was 43.3 cents per pound, compared with 41.0 cents in 1995.

TURKEY PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Year	Number Raised	Pounds Produced 1/	Price Per Pound 2/	Value of Production
CALIFORNIA	Thousand Head	Thousand Pounds	Cents	Thousand Dollars
1987	25,500	545,700	33.0	180,081
1988	26,500	572,400	35.0	200,340
1989	30,200	664,400	38.0	252,472
1990	31,500	711,900	38.0	270,522
1991	29,000	652,500	37.0	241,425
1992	26,600	563,920	39.0	219,929
1993	22,500	486,000	43.0	208,980
1994	21,000	449,400	43.0	193,242
1995	22,000	462,000	46.0	212,520
1996	22,500	492,750	45.0	221,738
UNITED STATES				
1995	292,856	6,779,277	41.0	2,776,372
1996	301,378	7,171,527	43.3	3,102,093

1/ Includes home consumption. 2/ Live weight equivalent price.

CHICKEN VALUE OF SALES

Total value of other chickens (excluding broilers) sold in 1996 in California was \$812 thousand, 11 percent less than the value of a year earlier. The average price for other chickens was 2.0 cents per pound compared to 1.9 cents per pound last year.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 1996 was \$61.4 million, up fractionally from the \$61.3 million a year ago. Prices averaged 6.6 cents per pound, compared with 6.5 cents in 1995. The number of chickens sold in 1996 totaled 174 million, down 3 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

CHICKEN PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1/

Year	Number Sold	Price Per Pound	Value
CALIFORNIA	Thousand Head	Cents	Thousand Dollars
1987	18,600	7.5	5,580
1988	23,900	4.5	4,302
1989	18,600	7.8	6,093
1990	20,000	6.0	4,920
1991	19,600	3.1	2,430
1992	20,000	2.0	1,520
1993	18,100	2.4	1,651
1994	14,300	2.0	1,058
1995	13,300	1.9	910
1996	11,600	2.0	812
UNITED STATES			
1995	179,467	6.5	61,315
1996	174,314	6.6	61,424

1/ Excludes commercial broilers.

PRICES PAID FOR POULTRY FEED

Region	Unit	April 1996	Apr. 15, 1997
PACIFIC REGION		--- Dollars ---	
Chick Starter Feed	Ton	309	304
Broiler Grower Feed	Ton	299	286
Turkey Grower Feed	Ton	335	309
Laying Feed	Ton	282	240
UNITED STATES			
Chick Starter Feed	Ton	280	284
Broiler Grower Feed	Ton	265	270
Turkey Grower Feed	Ton	312	305
Laying Feed	Ton	258	251

POULTRY AND EGG PRICES

The average April prices received by California producers, when compared to March average prices, increased one cent for broilers. Prices for live turkeys decreased two cents per pound. Prices for market eggs decreased six cents per dozen.

Nationally, the April average prices received by producers decreased below one cent per pound for broilers, but increased 1.7 cents per pound for live turkeys. Market eggs decreased 7.3 cents per dozen.

POULTRY AND EGG AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS, COMPARISONS 1/

Commodity	Unit	April 1996	Mar. 15, 1997	Apr. 15, 1997
CALIFORNIA		--- Cents ---		
Chickens-Broilers	Lb.	32.5	38.0	39.0
Market Eggs 2/	Doz.	67.0	62.0	56.0
Turkeys	Lb.	43.0	40.0	38.0
UNITED STATES				
Chickens-Broilers	Lb.	34.6	38.0	37.1
Market Eggs 2/	Doz.	67.0	60.5	53.2
Turkeys	Lb.	41.9	37.8	39.5

1/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by producers. They are averages for all grades, classes and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Average for market (table) eggs including eggs sold retail by producers.